

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract starting at page 22, line 2 and ending at line 12. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto is attached.

B19  
-A diffraction optical device includes a first diffraction element and a second diffraction element arranged adjacent to each other. One of the first diffraction element and the second diffraction element has a positive power, and the other has a negative power. The first diffraction element reduces the incident angle of light upon the second diffraction element. As a result, a lowering of diffraction efficiency due to the dependency thereof upon the incident angle of light is suppressed, and flare light is prevented from occurring due to diffracted light of unnecessary orders.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 5, 9 and 10 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8 showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

- B20  
1. (Amended) An optical system comprising,  
an iris, and
- SM C1